

# A Sanctuary Amidst Population and Development

Ocean and Coastal Program Managers' Meeting 2006

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Superintendent
Stellwagen Bank National Marine
Sanctuary



# **MISSION**

To conserve, protect and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy of the Sanctuary while facilitating

compatible use











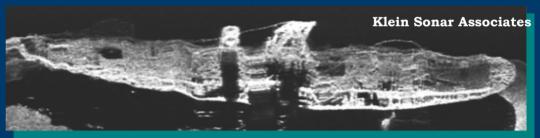


# STELLWAGEN BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

# Steamship Portland









New England's Titanic - Listed on the National Register of Historic Places



# Major Uses Relating to the Sanctuary

# Within

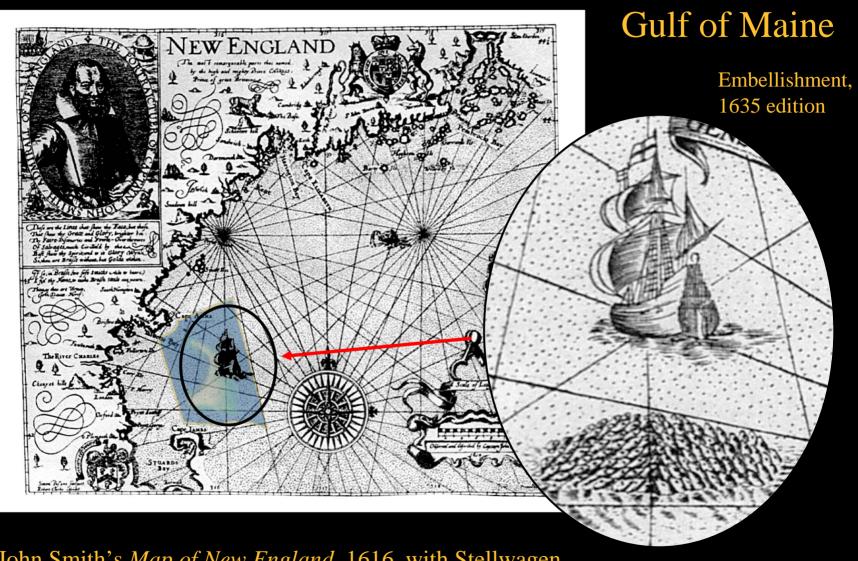
Mobile Fishing Gear
 Fixed Fishing Gear
 Commercial Whale Watching
 Ocean Transportation

# **Adjacent**

MWRA Outfall
 Mass Bay Disposal Site
 Offshore Deepwater Ports (proposed)

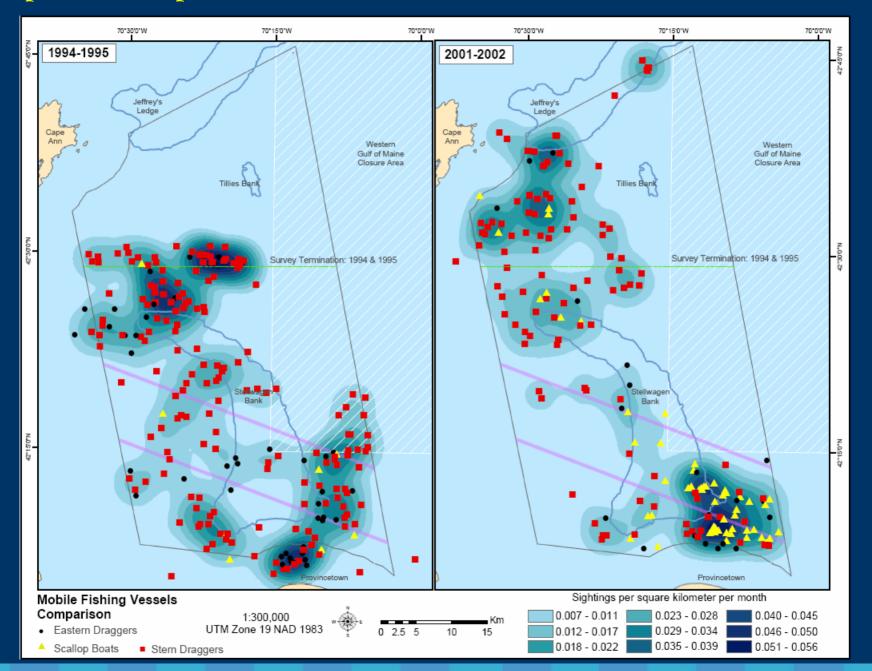


# John Smith Mapped the First Fishing Ground in the

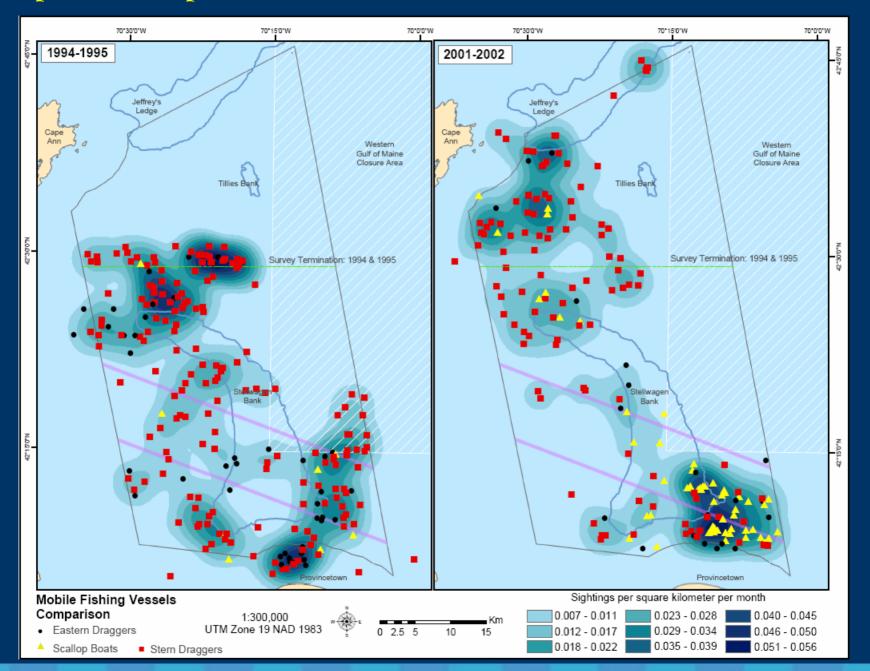


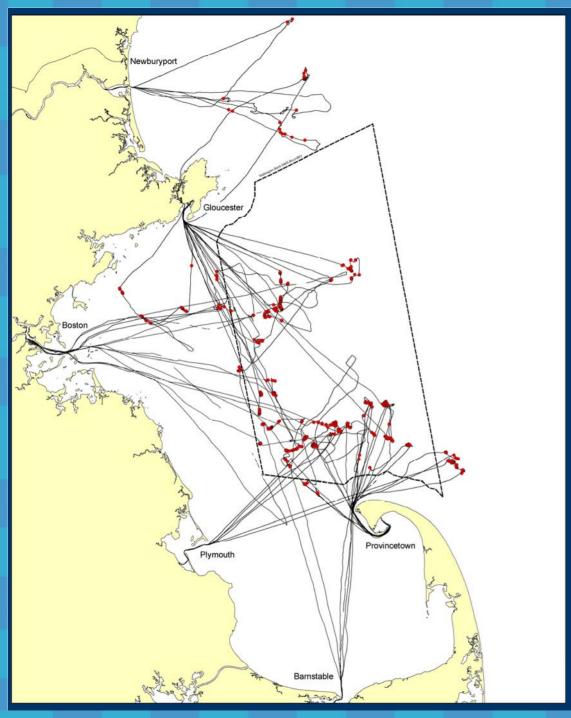
John Smith's *Map of New England*, 1616, with Stellwagen Bank and the National Marine Sanctuary superimposed.

# Spatial-Temporal Distribution of Human Uses: Mobile Gear



# Spatial-Temporal Distribution of Human Uses: Fixed Gear

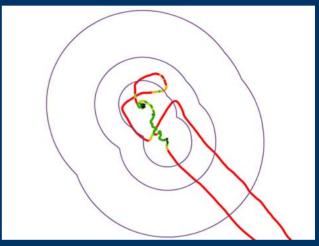


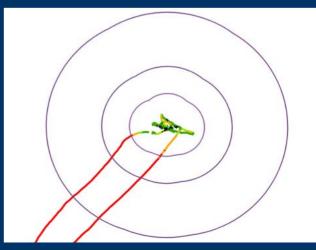


# **Trip Summary**

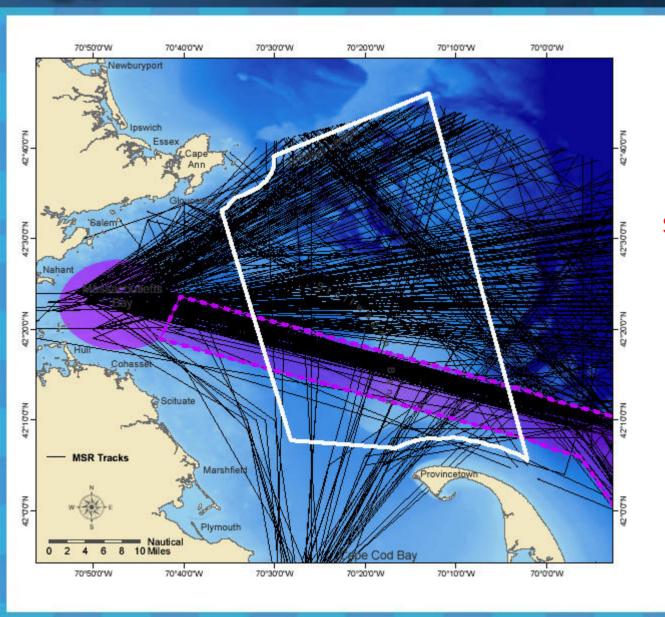
- 35 trips; all principal ports and companies
- 650 range shots of whales

TOTAL	DUR_DHR	LENGTH_NM
MEAN	3.6	53.3
RANGE	2.1 - 5.1	20.1 - 82.7
SD	0.7	13.8



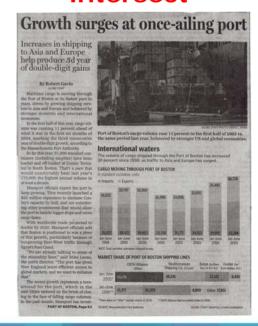


# STELLWAGEN BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

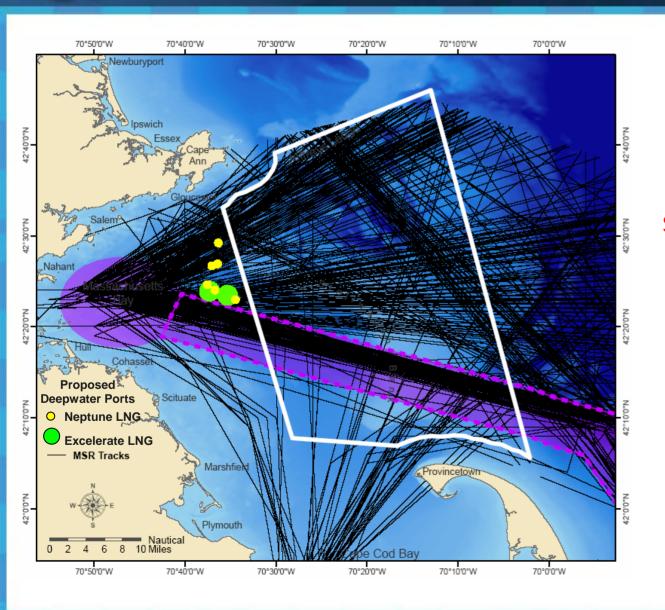


NMFS' Mandatory **Ship Reporting Tracks** 1999 - 2002

### Strikes occur where whales & vessels intersect

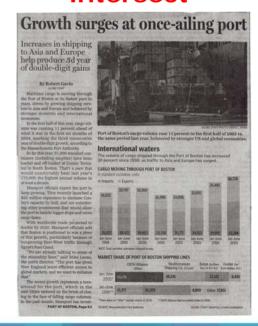


# **GERRY E. STUDDS** STELLWAGEN BANK



NMFS' Mandatory **Ship Reporting Tracks** 1999 - 2002

### Strikes occur where whales & vessels intersect





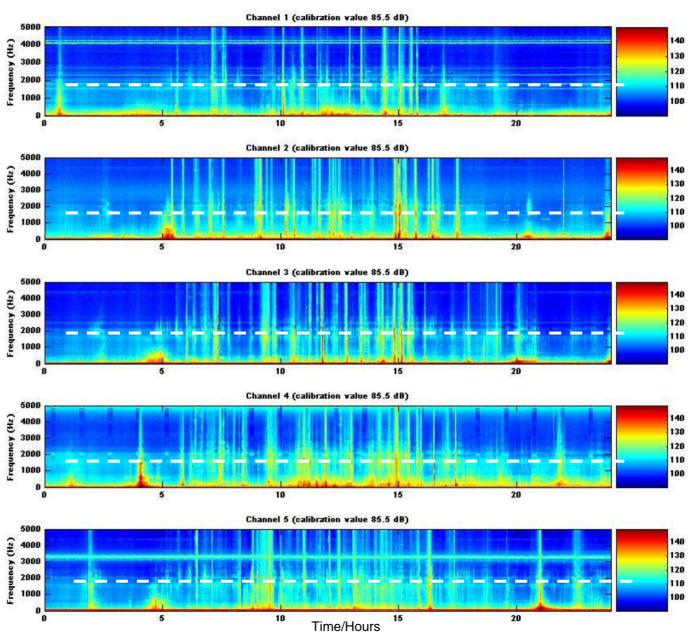
# Some Collateral Impacts of Deepwater Ports Regarding the Sanctuary

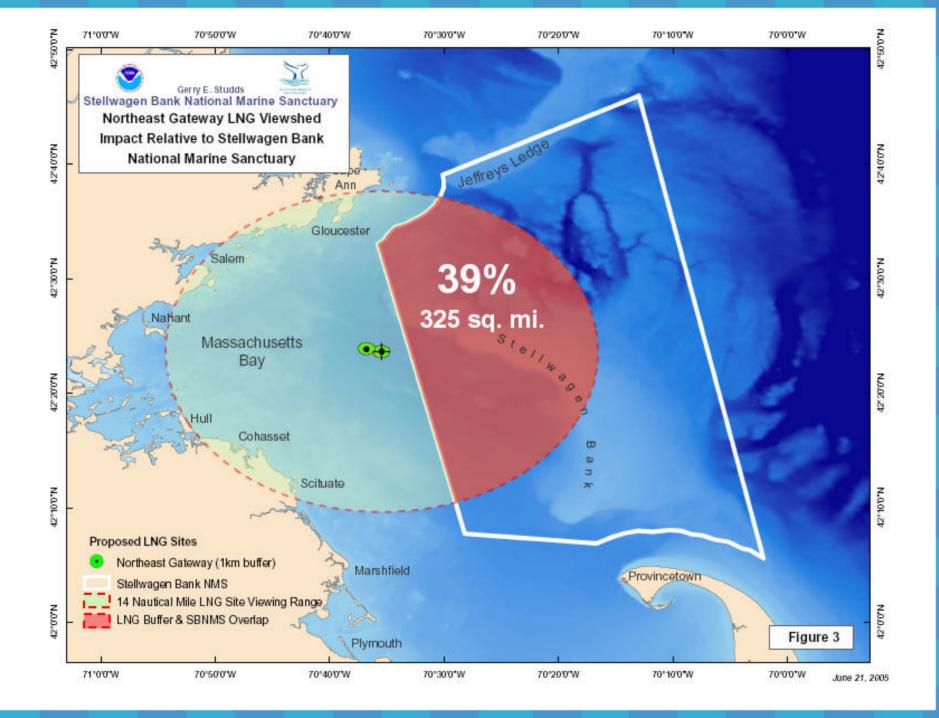
# Displacement of Activities into the Sanctuary

Commercial Fishing Whale Watching

# **Environmental Concerns**

Noise Aesthetics 24 Hour
Spectrogram of
sound within a
portion of the
SBNMS resulting
from 2004 pilot
study. Note chronic
loud sound in the
<1000 Hz
bandwidth used by
baleen whales





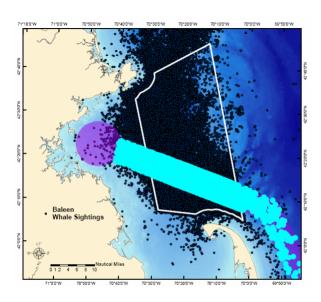


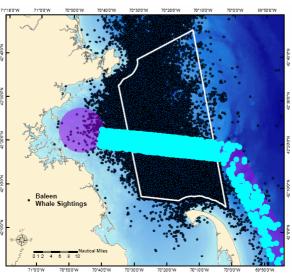
# A Successful Mitigation

Realizing Dramatic Conservation Benefit to Endangered Large Whale Species by Moving and Narrowing the Boston Shipping Lanes

Accommodation of LNG Deepwater Ports

# **GOAL: Spatially Separate Whales and Vessels**





### **Existing TSS**

Humpback 41,742 Right 402 Fin 9,365 Minke 10,233

Total =

61,742

## **Proposed TSS**

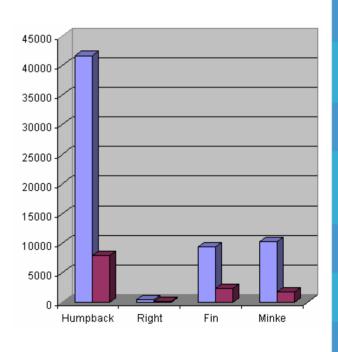
Humpback 7,864 Right 71 Fin 2,286 Minke 1,701

Total =

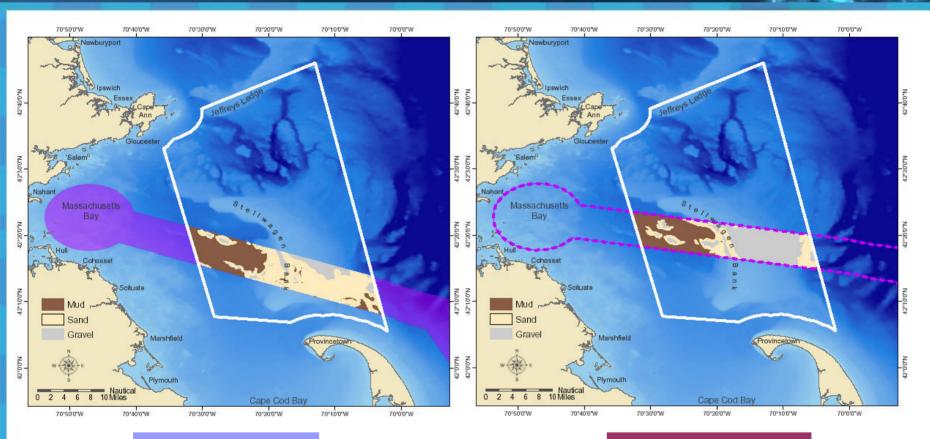
11,922

(81% reduction in risk)

Baleen Whales: Whale Watch Database 1979 - 2004



# **GERRY E. STUDDS** STELLWAGEN BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



### **Existing TSS**

Mud 36% ■ ●48% **Sand** 

16% ☐ Gravel

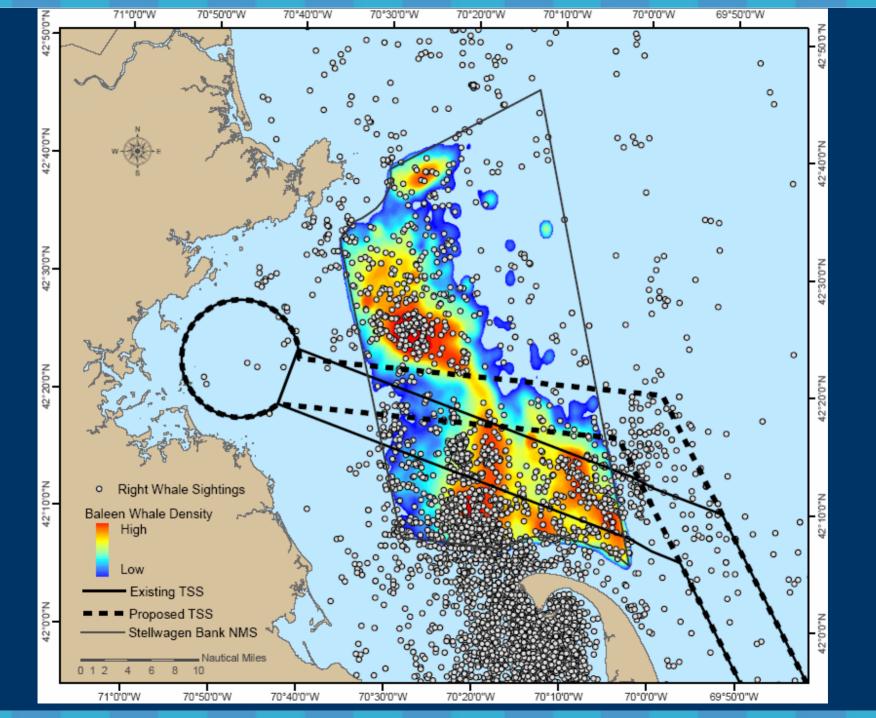
**Sediment** Classification

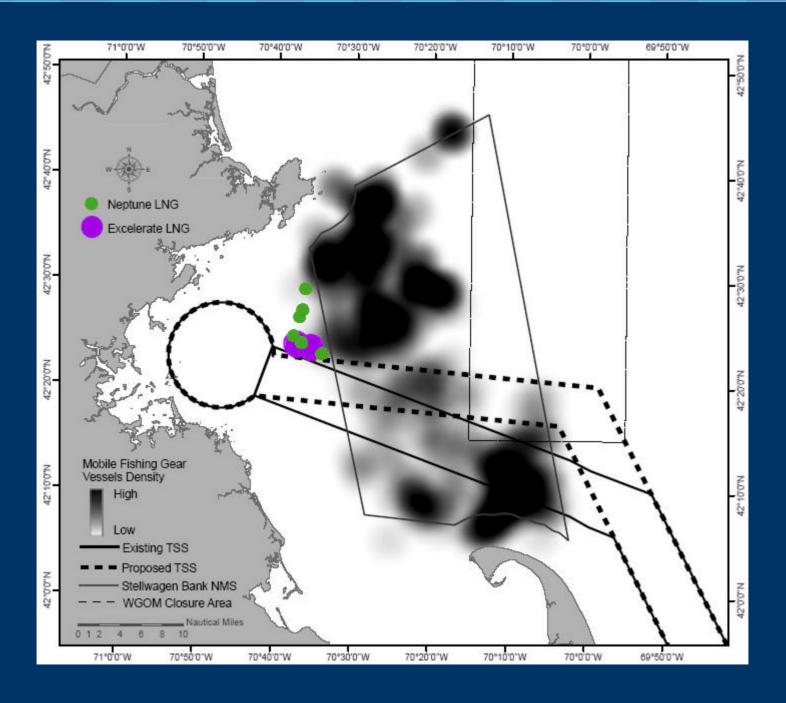
## **Proposed TSS**

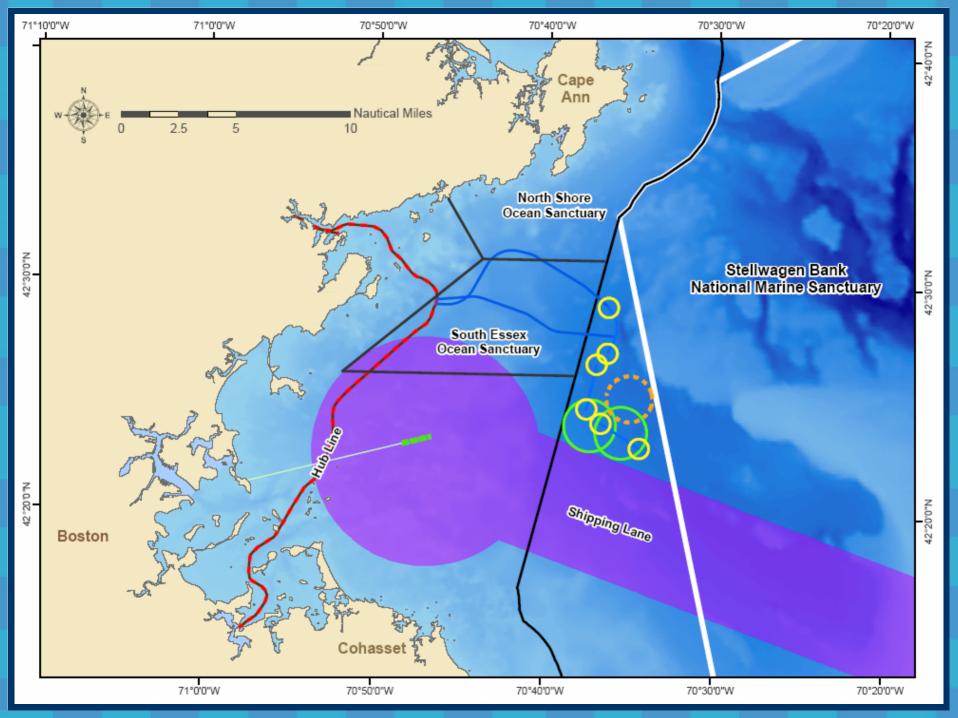
35% **Mud** 

**●16% ■** Sand

49% <a> Gravel</a>







# **VISION Statement**

(Adopted by the Sanctuary Advisory Council – July 2005)

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is teeming with a great diversity and abundance of marine plants and animals supported by diverse, healthy habitats in clean ocean waters. The ecological integrity of the sanctuary is protected and fully restored for current and future generations. Human uses are diverse and compatible with maintaining natural and cultural resources.



# Comprehensive Ocean Management

# Is difficult because:

• Sequential Timing of 'Developments'
Sporadic Nature of Opportunities and Constraints
Lack of Political Will and Public Apathy

# Is needed because:

• Affords Assessment of Cumulative Impacts Lowers Regulatory Risk in Business Planning Reduces Conflict through Policy Integration